Welcome to California Center for the Arts, Escondido

Theater and Meeting Venue Rentals
With a mission of bringing people together to discover, create and celebrate both the visual and performing arts, the California Center for the Arts, Escondido is the cultural center of North San Diego County. Since its founding, the Center has been dedicated to its mission to promote the arts and their power for community building and enhancement, and to enrich the lives of all within its reach, by providing artistic and cultural opportunities of the highest quality.

The Center’s unique campus includes a 1,500-seat concert hall, a 400-seat theater, a contemporary art museum, art and dance studios, and a full-service conference center with meeting and banquet facilities ready to host corporate gatherings, weddings and other special life events.

The Center also runs an extensive education program and produces free community events, such as Música en la Plaza, Independence Day Festival, Día de los Muertos Festival, northern lights, and the Winter Wonderland Festival.

The Center’s activities are guided by a Board of Trustees and an administration and staff who are dedicated to furthering arts entertainment and arts education in the community, by sustaining and expanding programs that provide cultural enrichment for residents of North County and beyond.

Mission and Vision

Since its founding, the Center has been dedicated to its mission to promote the arts and their power for community building and enhancement, and to enrich the lives of all within its reach, by providing artistic and cultural opportunities of the highest quality.

The Center is looking ahead to a bright future with a better-than-ever roster of performances and events that will inspire, educate, entertain and engage the local community as well as the many visitors who flock to the region each year.
Rent the Theaters

What do Wynton Marsalis, Julio Iglesias, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Faith Hill, The Moody Blues, Vicky Lawrence, Jewel, and Bill Maher have in common? They are just a few of the big names who have performed at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

The Center boasts two world-class performance venues — the 404-seat Center Theater, and the 1,523-seat Concert Hall — which are considered to have some of the finest acoustics in Southern California. Both theaters are available to rent and have hosted a variety of events ranging from world-renowned performances with national touring companies, to local dance productions, community theater groups, corporate meetings and weddings.
The interior design of the Concert Hall is reminiscent of Europe’s classic performance venues and is considered to have the finest acoustics in San Diego County. This impressive 1,523-seat venue has the capabilities to host the most discriminating artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Wynton Marsalis and Mikhail Baryshnikov. National touring companies of “RENT,” “Les Miserables,” and “The Producers” have graced our stage. The Concert Hall’s acoustics, sight lines and state-of-the-art features — coupled with the professionalism of the technical staff and theater operations — make it the choice venue for entertainment in San Diego.

Quick Facts:
- Capacity: 1,523
- Stage Width: 68’
- Stage Depth: 47’
- Dressing Rooms: 10
- Line Sets: 58
- Orchestra Pit: up to 60 musicians
- Seated Dinner on Stage: 200 guests
The Center’s 404-seat theater is striking, comfortable, and acoustically sensational. It has served as the ideal setting for performances by the Spoleto Festival USA, Jane Monheit, Edgar Meyer, Lily Tomlin, and international pianist sensation Lang Lang. Extended runs of “The Fantasticks,” “Forbidden Broadway,” and “Sound of Music Sing-a-Long” have also been staged in this intimate theatrical environment. For guest lectures or keynote presentations, the Center Theater is a perfect venue for up-close engagement with the audience and has hosted noted speakers such as Tony Robbins and Dr. Wayne Dyer.

Quick Facts:

- Capacity: 404
- Stage Width: 38’
- Stage Depth: 35’
- Dressing Rooms: 3
- Line Sets: 41
- Orchestra Pit: up to 30 musicians
- Lobby Reception: up to 250 guests
- Seated Dinner on Stage: 100 guests
Performers who want to delight their guests on and off the stage will be pleased to know that the Center’s theaters are complimented by a variety of other campus venues and features. With a conference center, a museum, multiple open-air courtyards, and complete dining and banquet services, the Center’s diverse amenities make pre-performance dinner packages and VIP receptions a reality.

While our theaters are perfect for performers, their versatility is equally impressive. Corporate presentations and lectures take place in our theaters, and artists utilize them for rehearsals, recordings, and live broadcasts. In addition, meeting planners host elegant dinners on stage and amaze their guests with the drama of our theatrical environment.

No matter what kind of event you envision, the Center’s experienced and dedicated staff can make it happen.
Lyric Courtyard

The Lyric Court is an intimate outdoor space complete with two large oak trees and colorful nighttime accent lighting. On performance days, the Lyric Court serves as a grand entrance to the Concert Hall. However, when the Concert Hall is dark, the Lyric Court functions as a fantastic venue in its own right. Weddings, dinner parties, and jazz concerts are just a few examples of events that have utilized the diverse character of the Lyric Court.

Great Green

The Great Green is the centerpiece around which the Center for the Arts campus was built. This central, tree-studded lawn offers easy access to the Center Theater, Lyric Court, Concert Hall, and Museum, as well as nearby Grape Day Park and Escondido City Hall.

Cal-Club & Courtyard

The California Club is an upscale and intimate indoor special event space located adjacent to the Center’s Concert Hall. Typically, the California Club is used for invite-only special events for Center supporters, but it can also be rented by private parties looking for a swanky and unique location for a meeting or small reception. The California Club overflows into a semi-private courtyard.
Conference Center
The Conference Center at the Center for the Arts is one of the largest meeting and banquet facilities in North San Diego County. We offer a 9,000 square-foot ballroom, several meeting rooms, and a pre-function foyer that serve as the perfect venues for any event — from intimate gatherings to national conventions, fundraisers, weddings, and grand galas.

Museum
The versatile Museum at the Center for the Arts is home to approximately four exhibits each year. When there are no exhibits, the Museum becomes a unique and intimate space available for rent and able to accommodate a variety of special event types.

Museum Courtyard
The Museum Courtyard is a private and scenic 5,000 square foot outdoor space located at the heart of the Center’s Museum. Art pieces and sculptures are frequently displayed on the Courtyard, offering an eclectic backdrop for any type of event.
To book your event or schedule a tour, please reach out to one of our Theater Sales Managers:

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We look forward to working with you!